

MAIN STREET, ANDOVER

A Program for Improvement

GOALS OF THE

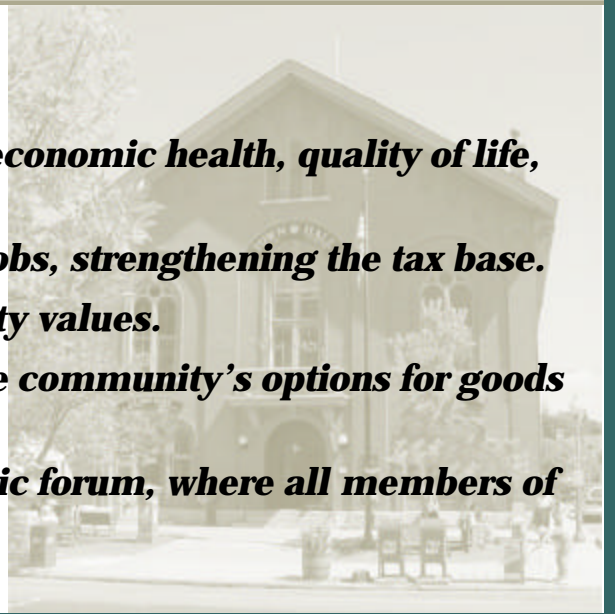
MAIN STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

To identify opportunities and obstacles in order to achieve and maintain a robust and lively Main Street in Andover; to seek community consensus on public and private actions; and to safely accommodate both pedestrians and vehicles now and in the future.



Why is Main Street important?

- ☞ ***Main Street is a symbol of Andover's economic health, quality of life, and pride.***
- ☞ ***A vital Main Street retains & creates jobs, strengthening the tax base.***
- ☞ ***A healthy Main Street protects property values.***
- ☞ ***A revitalized Main Street increases the community's options for goods and services.***
- ☞ ***Main Street provides an important civic forum, where all members of the community can congregate.***



HISTORY

Improvements to Main Street were conceived in the Community Development and Planning Department during the mid-1990's as a result of the 1992 Andover Master Plan and the Town's desire to give people a sense of place, to alleviate congestion and to improve overall safety. This was the catalyst for a proposal to the Massachusetts Highway Department (MHD) for grant monies to improve traffic flow and increase pedestrian safety. Many public meetings and presentations were held to formulate Andover's priorities for this project. In January 2001, the Andover Board of Selectmen appointed the Main Street Committee (MSC) as an advisory body to provide a forum for local businesses, citizens, and government to discuss matters relating to Main Street Andover. Throughout the design and public meeting process, the MSC, working with Design Consultants Inc., made recommendations to improve and adapt the plans to be compatible with Andover's unique character. In order to complement the MHD grant, the Town appropriated funds to soften the vehicular and pedestrian improvements to be constructed by the MHD. This includes historic street lamps, landscaping, tree grates, benches, and alternate paving in the crosswalks. As of August 2002, the project is approaching the final phases of design development.

...VISION...

Main Street Andover is the heart of the community, the traditional and modern focus for community activity - commercial, civic, cultural, social, and residential. Its condition serves as an indicator of the health, capacity and self-regard of the entire community. Improvements to the downtown should build on its considerable functional and aesthetic strengths, and should consistently reflect and reinforce its role as the heart of Andover.

Citizens

Main Street Andover is the primary gathering place for its citizens, shoppers, residents, students, employees, and visitors. It is a place for everyone and should be planned and developed as an attractive, safe pedestrian environment. Its design, maintenance, regulation, and management should result in an environment that is secure, welcoming, and free of physical, cultural, and social barriers.

Character

The identity of Main Street and the surrounding neighborhoods is founded on the character and design of its historical architecture and landscapes. They should be preserved, emphasized, and used as a primary source of downtown strength and vitality.

Commerce

Business activity is the foundation and the strength of Andover's Main Street. Commercial uses require adequate space, facilities, and parking. Improvements to the functional infrastructure of Main Street should be continually fostered. It is vital to local businesses endurance to bring people into downtown Andover by way of Main Street. This is primarily accomplished by automobile, but also by bus, bicycle, and train. Therefore, vehicular movement should be efficient, systematic, and as trouble-free as possible.

"The best used places are sociable places...[and] What attracts people most is other people... They go there by choice—not to escape the city, but to partake of it."
- William H. Whyte, *The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces*. TCF, 1980.

ELM SQUARE

The Elm Square redesign includes pedestrian islands at the corner of Kaps and at the corner of Elm Green to provide for increased pedestrian safety when crossing the street. The pedestrian islands are handicap accessible. There is a right turn lane from Elm Street to North Main Street and from Central Street to South Main Street. A red turning arrow will face North Main Street for cars turning onto Central and Essex Streets. Pedestrians can push a crosswalk button that will activate the walk signal. All turning radii will accommodate safety vehicles such as fire trucks. The cross walks will contain an alternate paving material for increased safety and visibility. Landscaping will soften the pedestrian islands. The intended design at the Musgrove block is to complement the Library.



OLD TOWN HOUSE

At the intersection of Main Street, Park Street, and Barnard Street, where the Old Town House is located, there will be an extended gathering area facing Main Street. Slight curb extensions will be located on the Park Street side and Barnard Street side to give pedestrians and the public greater comfort and to allow vehicles a more defined travel lane and parking zone.

MUNICIPAL PARKING LOT

The entrance to the municipal parking lot will be enhanced by a large landscaped area with benches, a covered sitting and standing area, increased sidewalk space and improved street crossing opportunities.



PUNCHARD & MAIN

The gateway to Andover's General Business District is located at the intersection of Punchard Street and Main Street. Slight curb extensions, alternate paving in the crosswalks, and decorative lights will inform motorists that they have entered a new District.

